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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/334,424	06/16/1999	YASUTOMO NISHINA	450100-4916	5326

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EXAMINER

SALCE, JASON P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/334,424	Applicant(s) NISHINA ET AL.	
Examiner Jason P Salce	Art Unit 2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 6/24/2004 in regards to claims 1-14 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Referring to claims 1-14, Matsuzaki still read on the amended claims, and will be discussed further in this Office Action.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 15-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-14 and 25-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Matsuzaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,522,672).

Referring to claim 1, Matsuzaki discloses an information transmitting apparatus, which transmits a plurality of signals (see Figure 1), said signals including at least video signals and audio signals (see Column 4, Lines 45-48), to an information receiving apparatus (see Column 9, Lines 24-25 for receiving information at a receiver).

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Matsuzaki also discloses a plurality of encoding means for separately encoding each of said video signals and each of said audio signals (see elements 82v and 82a in Figure 2).

Matsuzaki also discloses a first multiplexing means for multiplexing a plurality of pairs of encoded signals (see elements 34a through 34n in Figure 3), each pair of encoded signals having one encoded video signal and one encoded audio signal (see Column 4, Lines 41-50).

Matsuzaki also discloses a second multiplexing means for multiplexing the multiplexed plurality of pairs of encoded video signals and encoded audio signals (see Column 5, Lines 66-67 and Column 6, Lines 1-4).

Matsuzaki also discloses a control means for controlling a multiplexing ratio among the plurality of signals in the second multiplexing means (see Column 5, Lines 38-45 and Column 6, Lines 5-9 for the second multiplexing means being controlled by the control means).

Referring to claim 2, Matsuzaki discloses that the transmitting apparatus transmits the plurality of signals as a single transport stream (see Column 8, Lines 40-44 for transmitting a single transport stream).

Referring to claim 3, Matsuzaki discloses a database means for providing data that relates to transmission rates of the plurality of signals at each time point (see Figure 4 for a priority correlation table for indicating priorities for multiple types of media and Column 7, Lines 20-22 and Column 5, Lines 46-53 for adding time information so that a

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“time point” can therefore be determined), wherein the control means controls the multiplexing ratio while referring to the database (see Column 8, Lines 1-7).

Referring to claim 4, Matsuzaki discloses that the control means controls an output rate each of the plurality of the encoding means (see again Column 8, Lines 1-7 and note that setting the multiplexer with a priority for either the video, audio or data will control the output rate of that particular piece of information).

Referring to claim 5, Matsuzaki discloses that the pluralities of signals further comprise program information (see Column 4, Lines 45-48).

Referring to claim 6, Matsuzaki discloses an information transmitting apparatus, which transmits program information (see Figure 1), to an information receiving apparatus (see Column 9, Lines 24-25 for receiving information at a receiver).

Matsuzaki also discloses a plurality of video and audio encoding means (see elements 82a, 82v in Figure 2).

Matsuzaki also discloses a program information data generating means for generating data of the program information (see elements 82d in Figure 1).

Matsuzaki also discloses a first multiplexing means for multiplexing the program information, video and audio (see element 34 in Figure 1 and Column 4, Lines 41-50 for forming pairs of the multiplexed data).

Matsuzaki also discloses a control means for controlling a data output rate of the video, audio and program information by controlling a multiplexing ratio between these data elements (see Column 5, Lines 38-45 and Column 6, Lines 5-9 for the second multiplexing means being controlled by the control means).

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Referring to claims 7-9, see rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5, respectively.

Referring to claim 10-13, see rejection of claims 6-9, respectively.

Referring to claim 14, see rejection of claim 6.

Referring to claims 22-24, see the rejection of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15-21 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozkan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,612) in view of Eyer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,753) in further view of Matsuzaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,522,672).

Referring to claim 15, Ozkan discloses an information receiving apparatus (see Figure 1), which receives multiplexed program information (see element 22 in Figure 1 and Column 3, Lines 19-20 for demultiplexing a multiplexed program information signal).

Ozkan also discloses separating means for separating the multiplexed program information (see again Column 3, Lines 19-20 for a demultiplexer used for separating the video, audio and data).

Ozkan also discloses a plurality of decoding means for separately decoding each of the video signals and each of the audio signals (see Column 3, Lines 20-24 for a plurality of decoders used for decoding the separated audio and video).

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Ozkan also discloses a storing means for storing the program information separated by the separating means (see Column 3, Lines 53-56).

Ozkan also discloses a control means for controlling operations of the separating means and the storing means (see Column 4, Lines 17-19 for controlling the storing operation from demultiplexer 22 by processor 60 and Column 3, Lines 30-33 for separating a channel for viewing using the processor 60).

Ozkan is silent as to storing and separating program information in accordance with a transmission rate of the program information.

Eyer teaches a separating and storing program information (trickle data streams and demand data streams of EPG data) according to selections made by the user (if EPG data stored in local memory (trickle data) is selected or EPG data that has to be transmitted to a user (demand data)) at Column 12, Lines 55-67 and Column 13, Lines 1-10 for receiving both types of data at different transmission rates and separating and storing the data accordingly. Also note Column 6, Lines 5-8 for selecting a specific type of EPG data and Column 3, Lines 35-55 for storing EPG data at different rates.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the information receiving apparatus, as taught by Ozkan, using the trickle and demand EPG data transmission rate functionality, as taught by Eyer, for the purpose of improving the responsiveness and user friendliness of the program guide function by ensuring that the memory in a subscriber's decoder always holds a database which is up-to-date for current programming (see Column 5, Lines 64-67 and Column 6, Line 1 of Eyer).

Although Ozkan and Eyer disclose receiving a plurality of signals multiplexed together, Ozkan and Eyer are silent as to the program information being comprised of multiplexed pairs of encoded signals, each pair of encoded signals having one encoded video signal and one encoded audio signals.

Matsuzaki teaches a first multiplexing means for multiplexing a plurality of pairs of encoded signals (see elements 34a through 34n in Figure 3), each pair of encoded signals having one encoded video signal and one encoded audio signal (see Column 4, Lines 41-50).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the information receiving apparatus, as taught by Ozkan and Eyer, using the multiplexed pairs of audio and video signals, as taught by Matsuzaki, for the purpose of allowing a receiver to easily edit or process the information (see Column 9, Lines 22-24 of Matsuzaki).

Claim 16 corresponds to claim 15, where Eyer teaches that the program information is acquired only in a predetermined period when the transmission rate of the program information is high (see Column 2, Lines 32-36 for only acquiring program information in a predetermined period (time limit) when the program information must be retrieved (demand data stream requested)).

Referring to claims 17-18, see the rejection of claims 15-16, respectively.

Referring to claims 19-20, see the rejection of claims 15-16, respectively.

Referring to claim 21, Ozkan discloses an information receiving apparatus (see Figure 1), which receives multiplexed program information (see element 22 in Figure 1

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and Column 3, Lines 19-20 for demultiplexing a multiplexed program information signal).

Ozkan also discloses separating means for separating the multiplexed program information (see again Column 3, Lines 19-20 for a demultiplexer used for separating the video, audio and data).

Ozkan also discloses a plurality of decoding means for separately decoding each of the video signals and each of the audio signals (see Column 3, Lines 20-24 for a plurality of decoders used for decoding the separated audio and video).

Ozkan also discloses a storing means for storing the program information separated by the separating means (see Column 3, Lines 53-56).

Ozkan also discloses a control means for controlling operations of the separating means and the storing means (see Column 4, Lines 17-19 for controlling the storing operation from demultiplexer 22 by processor 60 and Column 3, Lines 30-33 for separating a channel for viewing using the processor 60).

Ozkan is silent as to storing and separating program information in accordance with a transmission rate of the program information.

Eyer teaches a separating and storing program information (trickle data streams and demand data streams of EPG data) according to selections made by the user (if EPG data stored in local memory (trickle data) is selected or EPG data that has to be transmitted to a user (demand data)) at Column 12, Lines 55-67 and Column 13, Lines 1-10 for receiving both types of data at different transmission rates and separating and

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storing the data accordingly. Also note Column 6, Lines 5-8 for selecting a specific type of EPG data and Column 3, Lines 35-55 for storing EPG data at different rates.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the information receiving apparatus, as taught by Ozkan, using the trickle and demand EPG data transmission rate functionality, as taught by Eyer, for the purpose of improving the responsiveness and user friendliness of the program guide function by ensuring that the memory in a subscriber's decoder always holds a database which is up-to-date for current programming (see Column 5, Lines 64-67 and Column 6, Line 1 of Eyer).

Although Ozkan and Eyer disclose receiving a plurality of signals multiplexed together, Ozkan and Eyer are silent as to the program information being comprised of multiplexed pairs of encoded signals, each pair of encoded signals having one encoded video signal and one encoded audio signals and are also silent as to the details of the transmitting apparatus.

Matsuzaki discloses an information transmitting apparatus, which transmits a plurality of signals (see Figure 1), said signals including at least video signals and audio signals (see Column 4, Lines 45-48), to an information receiving apparatus (see Column 9, Lines 24-25 for receiving information at a receiver).

Matsuzaki also discloses a plurality of encoding means for separately encoding each of said video signals and each of said audio signals (see elements 82v and 82a in Figure 2).

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Matsuzaki also discloses a first multiplexing means for multiplexing a plurality of pairs of encoded signals (see elements 34a through 34n in Figure 3), each pair of encoded signals having one encoded video signal and one encoded audio signal (see Column 4, Lines 41-50).

Matsuzaki also discloses a second multiplexing means for multiplexing the multiplexed plurality of pairs of encoded video signals and encoded audio signals (see Column 5, Lines 66-67 and Column 6, Lines 1-4).

Matsuzaki also discloses a control means for controlling a multiplexing ratio among the plurality of signals in the second multiplexing means (see Column 5, Lines 38-45 and Column 6, Lines 5-9 for the second multiplexing means being controlled by the control means).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the information receiving system, as taught by Ozkan and Eyer, using the transmitting apparatus, as taught by Matsuzaki, for the purpose of allowing a receiver to easily edit or process the information (see Column 9, Lines 22-24 of Matsuzaki).

Referring to claims 25-27, see the rejection of claim 15, and note that Eyer discloses extracting information of a transmission status of the program information that is included in the program information data separated by the separating means (see Column 11, Lines 10-23 for extracting a field of the program information that states if the status of the transmission is trickle data or demand data).

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Referring to claim 28, see the rejection of claim 21 and note that Eyer discloses extracting information of a transmission status of the program information that is included in the program information data separated by the separating means (see Column 11, Lines 10-23 for extracting a field of the program information that states if the status of the transmission is trickle data or demand data).

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P Salce whose telephone number is (703) 305-1824. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8am-6pm (every other Friday off).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on (703) 305-4755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 8th, 2004



CHRIS GRANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER